

Docket No. 2003-063

In the Claims:

Applicants are amending the claims to define the invention more clearly in a manner that addresses the concerns and considerations presented in the Office Action.

1. (Currently Amended) A propelling charge support for protecting a mortar cartridge having a tail fin and including a plurality of propelling charges prior to use, of the mortar cartridge comprising:

at least one retaining clip for constraining [[a]] the propelling charge support to [[a]] the tail fin assembly of the mortar cartridge;

a non-detented clip for constraining the propelling charges;

a rounded saddle with an etched surface for supporting a propelling charge to a tail of the mortar cartridge, wherein the tail forms part of the tail fin assembly;

a winged edge for protecting the propelling charge from impact and for aiding in removal of the propelling charge support from the mortar cartridge; and

a generally flat outer surface for allowing the propelling charge support to rest on a flat surface during installation.

2. (Original) The propelling charge support of claim 1, wherein the retaining clip and the non-detented clip are disposed on opposite ends of the propelling charge support.

3. (Original) The propelling charge support of claim 1, wherein an exterior surface of the propelling charge support opposite the rounded saddle comprises the winged edge.

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4. (Original) The propelling charge support of claim 3, wherein the exterior surface of the propelling charge support opposite the rounded saddle comprises the flat outer surface.
5. (Currently Amended) The propelling charge support of claim 1, wherein the mortar cartridge is a 60mm mortar cartridge; and
wherein the retaining clip is approximately ~~1.59 inches~~ 9.86 cm long.
6. (Currently Amended) The propelling charge support of claim 1, wherein the mortar cartridge is a 60mm mortar cartridge;
wherein the saddle is approximately ~~1 inch~~ 4.45 cm wide.
7. (Currently Amended) The propelling charge support of claim 1, wherein the mortar cartridge is a 60mm mortar cartridge;
wherein the non-detented retaining clip is approximately ~~1.59 inches~~ 4.83 cm high.
8. (Currently Amended) The propelling charge support of claim 1, wherein the propelling charge support is made of injection molded material comprising high-impact polystyrene, or high density polyethylene (HDPE), possibly including another equivalent resin material meeting performance requirements.
9. (Original) The propelling charge support of claim 1, further comprising a fin engagement clip for interfacing with a fin blade on the tail fin to prevent rotation of the propelling charges about the tail fin axis.

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10. (Original) The propelling charge support of claim 9, wherein the fin engagement clip comprises protrusions that interface with a fin on the tail fin.